

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests that this Preliminary Amendment be entered and that this application be reconsidered as amended.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Notice of Allowability of claims 15, 28, and 30.

AMENDMENTS

New claims 31-55 are added. Claims 31-39 depend, directly or indirectly, on claim 15, claims 40-47 depend on claim 28, and claims 48-55 depend on claim 30. No new matter has been added.

The new claims are previously cancelled dependent claims that are rewritten to depend on allowed claims 15, 28, and 30.

If the Examiner finds any remaining impediment to the prompt allowance of these claims that could be clarified with a telephone conference, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Joseph A. Twarowski at (408) 720-8300.

PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Applicant respectfully requests that the Information Disclosure Statement and cited documents submitted on September 23, 1999 be considered by the Examiner and the PTO-1449 form be initialed and a copy returned. Enclosed are copies of the Information Disclosure Statement, Form 1449, Certificate of Express Mail, and a copy of the return receipt postcard showing the receipt stamp of the Patent and Trademark Office dated September 23, 1999.


Deposit Account Authorization

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any additional charges that may be due regarding this Amendment or to credit our account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date: June 14, 2000



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